



Desalination Task Force

7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Soquel Creek Water District Board Room

5180 Soquel Drive Soquel, CA 95073

Minutes

The Desalination Task Force consists of two members of the Soquel Creek Water District Board and two members of the City of Santa Cruz City Council.

Call to Order Councilmember D. Lane called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Director B. Jaffe, Director D. Kriege, and Councilmember D. Lane.

Staff: General Manager L. Brown, Water Director B. Kocher, Desalination Program Coordinator H. Luckenbach and Assistant Engineer S. O'Hara.

Others: M. Milan, Data Instincts; T. Reynolds, Kennedy Jenks Consultants, A. Sansevero, URS Corporation and three members of the public.

Presentation There were no presentations.

Statements of Disqualification There were no statements of disqualification.

Oral Communications There were no oral communications.

Announcements There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes

Director B. Jaffe moved approval of the September 21, 2011 Desalination Task Force meeting minutes as submitted. Councilmember D. Lane seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Jaffe and D. Lane.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: D. Kriege

General Business

1. Program Schedule and CEQA Process

Desalination Program Coordinator H. Luckenbach introduced Ann Sansevero, Senior Environmental Planner, URS Corporation who presented information on the CEQA process and program schedule and answered questions from the Task Force and members of the public.

Public Comments were made by M. Rotkin and A. Schiffrin.

Task Force Comments

It may be useful for staff to provide a list to the Task Force of documents that will be part of the package that will be given to both agencies for use during the consideration (approval) process. A list of the regulatory permits required would also be useful.

The Task Force discussed that the minimum 45 day comment period may not allow the public enough time to review the document and would like to make a recommendation how long the comment period should be at a future meeting.

The Task Force requested that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation be provided members and be posted on the scwd² website.

2. Energy Study Status report, Project Assessment Review, and Discussion on Project Evaluation, Scoring and Ranking Methodology

Assistant Engineer S. O'Hara and T. Reynolds, Technical Advisor, Kennedy Jenks Consultants presented the Energy Study Status Report, the Project Assessment Review and answered from the Task Force and members of the public.

Public Comments were made by B. Daniels, M. Rotkin and A. Schiffrin.

Task Force Comments

Consideration should be given to projects located in the southern end of the County; most of the projects are in Santa Cruz.

All local government entities/agencies should be viewed as potential sources for projects.

3. Public Outreach Update for Desalination Program

M. Milan, Data Instincts reported that an update on Public Outreach will be presented to the task force quarterly. A new program is being developed producing video snip-its.

Director B. Daniels reported that he and Director T. LaHue have developed a public outreach presentation that describes the water situation for the District. It clearly presents the information about the overdraft of the Purisima and Red Sands aquifers. It also explains how future conservation efforts will not yield as much water savings and provides information on composting toilets do not save water and actually require electricity to work properly. A very thorough analysis needs to be done in order to present facts that show that conservation cannot make up the shortages. Outreach efforts need sharper and more fact-based rather than opinion based.

Director Jaffe reported that the District is working on an accurate portrayal of what life will look like if the desalination plant is not built and suggests that the City consider doing the same.

General Manager Brown requested that if anyone has information such as that of Director Daniels that they share it with staff.

It was requested that Director Daniels provide a copy of his presentation materials to the Task Force and staff.

4. Policy Regarding Links on scwd²desal.org Website

General Manager Brown provided the staff report and answered Task Force questions.

Director Jaffe stated he is glad to see the changes that have been made to the website.

Director D. Kriege moved that the **scwd²** Desalination Task Force adopt a policy restricting links posted on the scwd²desal.org website to the following: Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District websites; official sites of governmental organizations with desalination information (e.g. California Coastal Commission, California Department of Water Resources, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary); news articles and opinion pieces (including editorials and letters to the editor) about the **scwd²** Desalination project evaluation from local print and electronic media. Director B. Jaffe seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Jaffe, D. Kriege and D. Lane.

NOES: None.

Program Managers' Report

A. Work Schedule

No report

B. Upcoming Tasks

- EIR: Complete Conceptual Intake Design Study and Project Description
- Intertie Analysis complete by end of December
- Operations Agreement Amendment No. 1 to Task Force in November

C. Additional or Amended Tasks.

D. Contacts with Regulatory Agencies/Requests from Regulatory Agencies

- Met with Army Corp of Engineer (USACE) to discuss project, CEQA/NEPA and permitting requirements. USACE recommended an interagency meeting with other State/Federal agencies.
- Staff will be testifying before SWRCB Scientific Panel regarding brine disposal in December.

E. Contracts

No report.

F. Public Outreach Program

See General Business No. 3.

G. Budget

No Report

H. Report of Findings

No report.

Media Articles No action was taken on this item.

1. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 09/20/11
2. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 09/20/11
3. News Article – Santa Cruz Patch 09/21/11
4. News Article – Santa Cruz Weekly 09/21/11
5. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10/06/11

Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas

Consider rescheduling December meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. until the next regular meeting of the Desalination Task Force scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Soquel Creek Water District Board Room, 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel.

Respectfully submitted,



Staff